

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1           1.       (Currently Amended) A method of self-aligning connections for a two section mast,  
2       which method comprises:

3                   transporting an elongated bottom mast section to a guide frame adjacent to a well site,  
4       said bottom mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs so that said bottom mast  
5       section is in a substantially horizontal orientation;

6                   thereafter transporting an elongated top mast section to said well site so that said top  
7       mast section is in a substantially horizontal orientation and so that said mast sections are  
8       substantially aligned lengthwise, said top mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear  
9       legs;

10                  positioning said legs of said bottom mast section slightly below a level of said legs  
11       of said top mast section;

12                  raising said bottom mast section; and

13                  simultaneously engaging and guiding ~~aligning~~ the mast sections together in ~~the a~~ final  
14       connecting orientation.

1           2.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2       bottom mast section is raised by cylinders on mast stands.

1           3.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said  
2       cylinders are powered by a rig hydraulic system.

1           4.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 legs of said bottom mast section are positioned slightly below a level of said legs of said top mast  
3 section by lowering said bottom mast section before said raising step.

1           5.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 including  
2 the additional step of pinning said top mast section to said bottom mast section.

1           6.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 bottom mast section and said top mast section are each transported on a vehicle in a horizontal  
3 orientation prior to a vertical use orientation.

1           7.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 legs of said bottom mast section are positioned by cylinders on said mast stands.

1           8.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 pair of top mast front legs each include a pair of protruding circular plates which engage and align  
3 with said pair of bottom mast front legs which each include an alignment jaw with a pair of hooks.

1           9.       (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 pair of top mast rear legs each include a jaw with a shoulder which engage and align with said pair  
3 of bottom mast rear legs which each include a jaw with protruding semi-circular plates.

1           10.   (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 9 wherein  
2 each said shoulder includes a radial face to receive said circular plates.

1           11.   (Original) A method of self-aligning connections as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said  
2 steps are performed in reverse order to disassemble said two section mast.

1           12.   (Currently Amended) A two section mast with self-aligning connections, which mast  
2 comprises:

3                   an elongated bottom mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs  
4 arranged in a substantially horizontal arrangement;

5                   an elongated top mast section having a pair of front legs and a pair of rear legs  
6 arranged in a substantially horizontal arrangement wherein said mast sections are substantially  
7 aligned lengthwise;

8                   means to simultaneously engage and guide the mast sections together including a  
9 self-aligning connection between said mast sections wherein said pair of top mast front legs each  
10 include a pair of protruding circular plates, each said pair of plates engage and align with a jaw with  
11 a pair of hooks extending from each said bottom mast front leg and wherein said pair of top mast  
12 rear legs each include a jaw with a shoulder, each said jaw engaging and aligning with a jaw with  
13 protruding semi-circular plates extending from each bottom mast rear leg; and

14                   at least one hydraulic cylinder on a mast stand to move said legs of said bottom  
15 section from a position slightly below a level of said legs of said top mast section to an engaged  
16 position in which the mast sections are in a ~~the~~ final connecting orientation.

1           13.   (Canceled)

1           14.   (Original) A two section mast as set forth in Claim 12 including a pin passing  
2   through each said jaw of said bottom mast front legs and through each said pair of protruding  
3   circular plates of said top mast front legs.

1           15.   (Original) A two section mast as set forth in Claim 12 including a pin passing  
2   through each said jaw with a shoulder of said top mast rear legs and through each said jaw with  
3   protruding semi-circular plates of said bottom mast rear legs.